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## Law Library Newsletter, Volume 3, Issue 2 - Biolchini Hall Dedication Issue 2011

Kresge Law Library

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# Law Library News

Special Edition

*Dedication*

of

**Biolchini Hall of Law**





# Law Library News

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 2

SPECIAL ISSUE 2011



*This special issue of the Law Library News commemorates the newly renovated Kresge Law Library in the Biolchini Hall of Law, and is dedicated to all those who made this beautiful and useful new space possible!*

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## Letter from Ed Edmonds

How should one describe a library in the year 2011? More importantly for me, the faculty, the students, and my colleagues at the Kresge Law Library, how would one define our law library in the academic year 2010-2011, the year of the dedication of Biolchini Hall of Law?

To start this short letter to this special issue of the *Law Library News*, I consulted the digital version of the *Oxford English Dictionary*, provided through the good graces of our friends at the Hesburgh Libraries. The initial definition is:

(n.) "1. A place set apart to contain books for reading, study, or reference. (Not applied, e.g. to the shop or warehouse of a bookseller.) In various applications more or less specific."<sup>1</sup>

I rather like this definition because it merges the spatial dimension of housing books (print sources that have served humanity for multiple centuries) with a "place" for "reading, study, or reference." Indeed, through the generosity of the Biolchini family and many other great benefactors to this building project of such great importance to the advancement of legal education at Our Lady's University, the Kresge Law Library within the Biolchini Hall of Law, is a grand place for "reading, study, or reference." In fact, we have over twenty study rooms, 150 carrels, and seating ranging from plush couches to desk chairs, providing spaces of many varieties for our library patrons and other guests. We also have great rectangular tables in the middle of a Main Reading Room surrounded by circular ones in alcoves that recreate the signature space within the 1930 Law School. For our many graduates, the Main Reading Room will look somewhat familiar, although the chandeliers replicate ones long gone from the space. Beyond that, most of it will look modern and



**ABOVE:** Ed Edmonds is the Associate Dean for the Library and Information Technology and Professor of Law at the Notre Dame Law School.

quite different. We want to extend an invitation to all of our alumni to return to our campus and especially to this room. It cannot be truly experienced any other way.

Although we often think of a library as a physical entity, it is so much more. Many of us who work here consider our tasks our vocation, for we are truly laborers in God's vineyard, as service providers to our faculty and students and, often, other patrons. Our faculty are learned and wise veterans of the search for knowledge and truth in the context of law, and our students are novices grappling

Continued on next page . . .

with the difficult tasks of becoming familiar with the sources of the greatest legal minds from antiquity while also absorbing new knowledge provided perhaps just seconds ago via the power of the Internet.

Those students are also involved in one of the great transformative experiences of their lives. They came to this campus to join a community of dedicated scholars, deep thinkers, eloquent advocates, and polished and sophisticated writers, at the Notre Dame Law School, dedicated to producing lawyers who will go out into the world to make this a better and more just place for all. We are deeply dedicated to learning in community, and this library is a great testament to our feeling that it is best to learn how to master the law as part of a communal experience. We do not think that just because so much of the knowledge of the human experience is available electronically we should dismiss “place” as one of the defining characteristics of our library. It is not mere tradition that guided our thinking about how to develop a Kresge Law Library for the current century. We seek to blend the great traditions of library space with the modern methods of delivering legal information.

In fact, we think we are as strongly dedicated to the delivery of legal information in all forms as are any of the great law libraries in this country or, for that matter, anywhere in the world. To that end we will soon bring a new discovery tool, Innovative Interfaces’ Encore, a product that will go far towards merging access to our great print collection with our electronic resources. This is one of the many tools that we hope will provide our patrons with the key to the vault of great wisdom regarding the legal issues of many generations and those that are just emerging.

However, I would be remiss if I did not express to the reader of these words that our greatest asset as a “library” is not the information that it holds but the dedicated work of the gifted colleagues that I have the pleasure to work with. They are a wonderful group devoted to the mission of this great Law School and University who eagerly embrace the challenge of providing exceptional service. They now work within space that better provides them than ever before the opportunity to fulfill the vision of all of those who went before establishing the foundation for this great law library. We who work here now fervently hope that we are worthy successors to those whose efforts we build upon. Indeed, the Kresge Law Library in Biolchini Hall is a living testament to all who helped establish a great tradition of supporting the efforts of all of our graduates and faculty at this, the oldest of America’s Catholic law schools.

-Ed Edmonds

1. “library, n.1”. OED Online. March 2011. Oxford University Press. <http://www.oed.com.proxy.library.nd.edu/view/Entry/107923?rskey=y9CPBQ&result=1> (accessed April 06, 2011).



**ABOVE:** Joseph A. Matson Dean and Professor of Law Nell Newton speaks with Professor of Law and former Dean, Patty O’Hara, and Associate Justice of the Supreme Court Samuel Alito before the dedication of the Biolchini Hall of Law in October 2010.

## Letter from Nell Jessup Newton

I am sure I am not the only one who finds that the great traditions of Notre Dame Law School, always present in the faculty, students, and staff, come alive in yet another way whenever we step into the Kresge Law Library’s magnificent Main Reading Room.

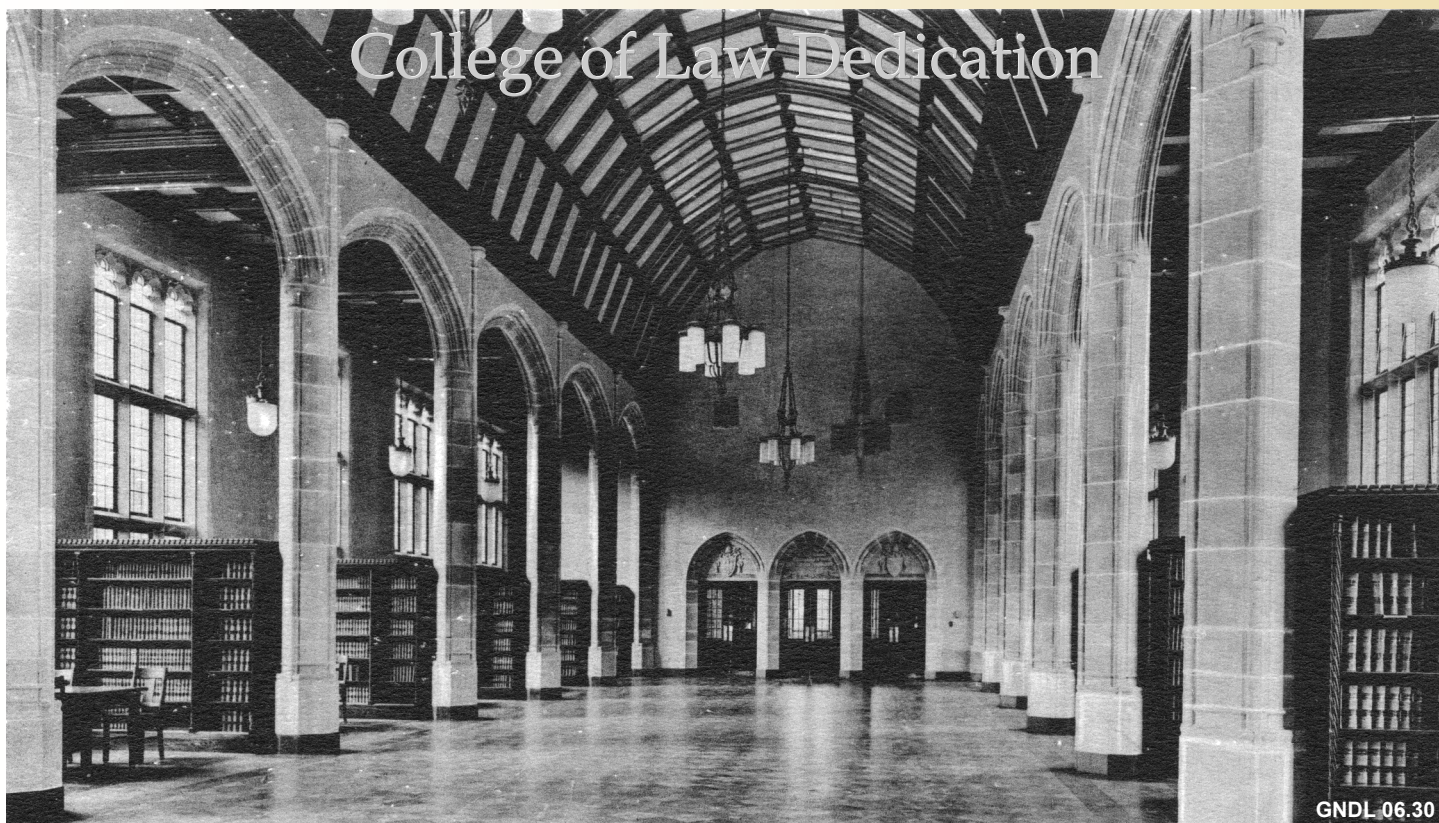
While I will always marvel at the new library’s critical — even brilliant — improvements in design and functionality, few moments can compare to one’s first visit to the reading room after the renovations were completed. We saw that the original building’s windows, covered up in the original renovation, were now uncovered and finding new life as interior windows that brought back the feel of the old building. We saw that the original building’s terrific 1930s-era chandeliers, which had been removed and then somehow lost decades ago, had been meticulously copied by skilled craftsmen who had pored over the old photographs. Now these lamps are once again alight for a new generation of law students, just as we, too, are back and ready to pick up the education torch handed to us by our predecessors.

It is a difficult challenge, this business of embracing the future while remaining faithful to the past, but the renovated Notre Dame Law Library succeeds. Its staff, starting with Associate Dean Ed Edmonds and extending throughout the library, are unparalleled professionals. Its benefactors, starting with Mr. Stanley Sebastian Kresge and The Kresge Foundation and Bob and Fran Biolchini and their family, aided by dozens of other alumni and friends of the Law School, continue to provide unstinting support. Almost every Dean before Patty O’Hara struggled with making space for our students, programs, and the library in one building. Yet three major renovations and the creation of an entirely new building finally provided the space needed for what must surely be the most beautiful law library in the country.

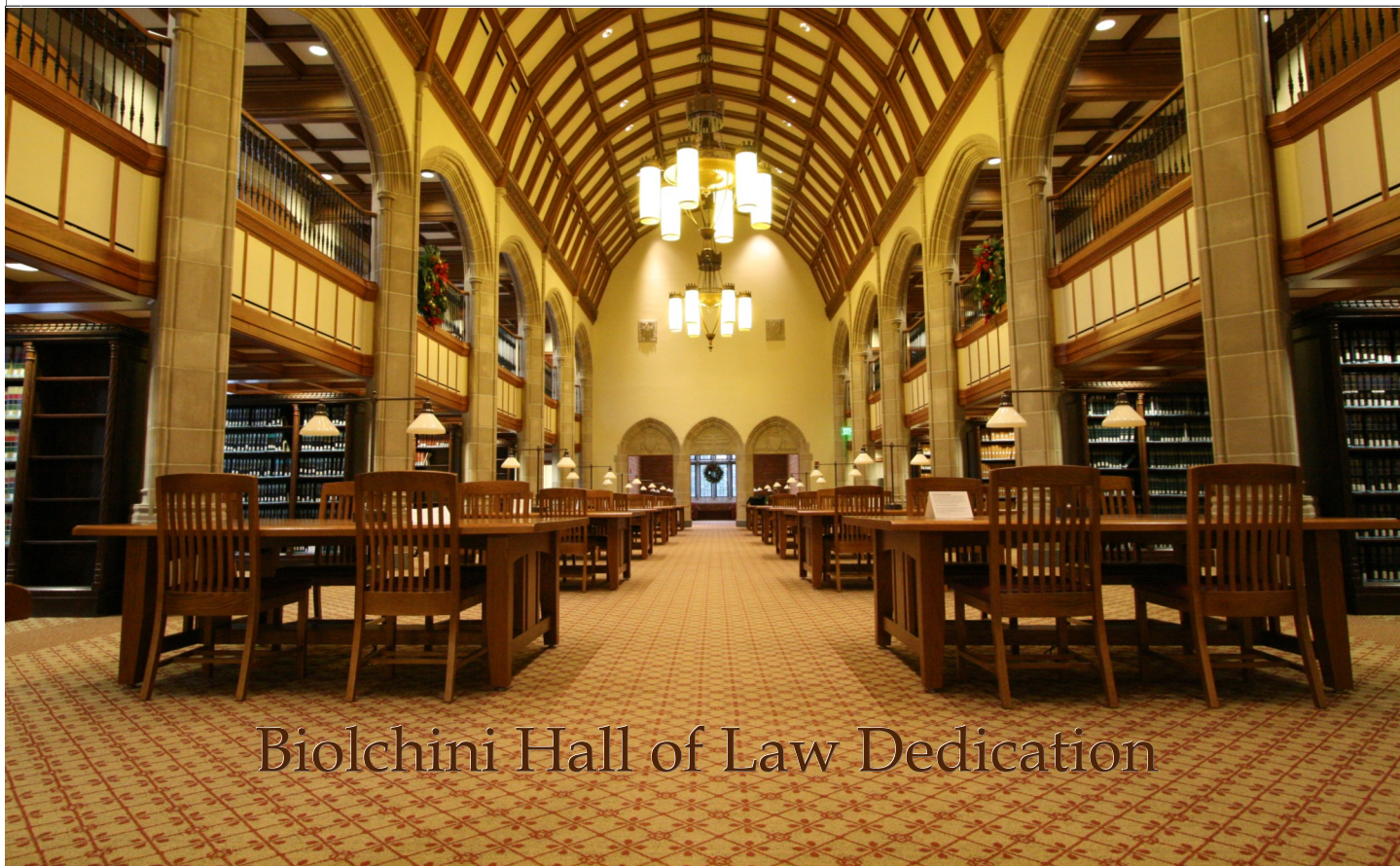
We all owe so much to so many. Thank you, everyone.

-Nell Newton





**The Life of a Library: A Brief History of the  
Kresge Law Library at the Notre Dame Law School**





Compiled by Beth Gelroth Klein.

Updated and expanded, 2010.

Originally published as an insert in *Notre Dame Lawyer*, Spring 2006.

## THE LIFE OF A LIBRARY:

### 1883



"Colonel" William Hoynes is appointed first dean of the law school, and the few books he brought with him from Chicago constitute the library.

### 1918-1920

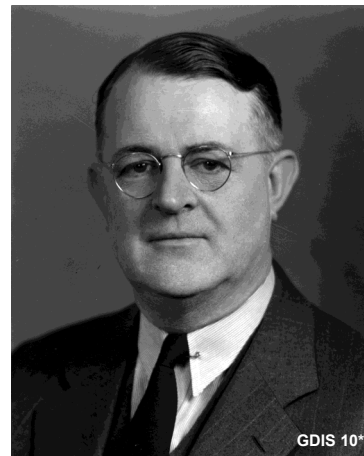
The library holds more than 5,000 volumes but is very inadequate in working space.

—*University Bulletin*, 1918-1919.



"The college of Law began a new era, when a new and well equipped building, [Hoynes College of Law, now Crowley Hall of Music] was provided for the exclusive use of the students of Law." —1920-21 *Bulletin*, 280.

### 1925



John H. A. Whitman, is appointed by Dean Thomas Konop, as the first law librarian of the growing 7,000-volume library. He previously served the University as a professor of Latin and English. During his tenure as librarian he earned his law degree at Notre Dame.

### 1888



The Law Department, located in the south end of Sorin Hall, has an "excellent library comprising 2,500 volumes." —*Columbia Law Times*, January 1889.



"The library has a capacity of twenty thousand volumes." —*Prospectus and Announcement of the College of Law for 1920-21*, 1 NOTRE DAME L. REP. 54 (1920).

### 1930



Dedicated on Oct. 7, 1930, the building on Notre Dame Avenue is constructed to house both an expanded law library and the law school. "Even more impressive than the courtroom is the large library on the second floor." —Thomas F. Konop, *History of the Notre Dame College of Law*, 6 NOTRE DAME LAW. 5, 21 (1930).

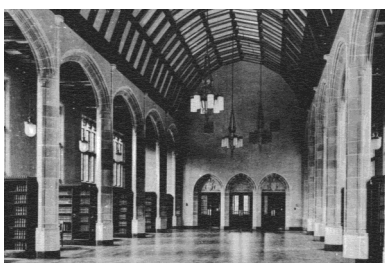
### 1904

"All the latest reports of State and Federal courts are in its shelves." —*Law Department Bulletin*, 1904-05.

Later that year, the College of Law launches a campaign among its graduates to secure state reports published prior to West's reporter system. —*Propaganda*, 2 NOTRE DAME L. REP. 48 (1920).



## A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE KRESGE LAW LIBRARY



The 50 x 100 ft. reading room holds 10,000 volumes. There is additional stack space for 25,000 volumes. "Two stories in height with a double row of stone pillars supporting the arched ceiling, the impression of this room is one almost of vastness. To harmonize with their surroundings the massive bookcases are of dark oak so arranged as to provide study nooks for individuals or small groups of students." —Thomas F. Konop, *History of the Notre Dame College of Law*, 6 NOTRE DAME LAW. 24 (1930).

### 1942



Lora Lashbrook, appointed by Dean Clarence Manion, is the second law librarian. She also serves as teacher of research, registrar, and secretary to both the dean and the faculty. She earned her LL.B. from Indiana University School of Law in 1938 and was a member of the Indiana Bar.

### 1945



Marie Lawrence becomes the third law librarian. She holds a degree in Library Science from the University of Michigan. She worked for the University Libraries for twenty years before coming to the law school.

In his book, *A Century of Law at Notre Dame* 94 (1969) Rev. Moore describes the post-WW II law library collection. "After the war conditions improved, some six thousand volumes had been added by 1952, bringing the total holdings from approximately sixteen thousand volumes in 1941 to twenty-two thousand volumes in 1952."

Dean O'Meara, quotes Arthur C. Pulling of Harvard Law Library regarding the prowess of Miss Lawrence. "She knows her bibliographies and what an excellent law collection should contain....[She] commands the respect of all law librarians, East and West." —*Notre Dame Law School Dean's Report*, 1957-58 16-17 (August 15, 1958).

### 1954-1960

The library contains over 22,000 volumes and Dean O'Meara complains of shelving problems. Books are stored on four of the reading tables. "If we must use the tables as book shelves, where are we to put the students?"—Joseph O'Meara, *Notre Dame Law School, Annual Report of the Dean*, 1953-54 12 (August 14, 1954).

"The jurisdiction over the law library was transferred on October 1 [1957] from the Director of the University Library to the Dean of the Law School.—Joseph O'Meara, *Notre Dame Law School, Dean's Report*, 1957-58 16 (August 15, 1958).

Early in 1958, available stack space had been exceeded by 15,000 volumes; those volumes were stored in the law school tower.

By 1960 "there are 55,000 volumes in the library – two and one-half times as many as in 1950." —Philip S. Moore, C.S.C., *Academic Development: University of Notre Dame, chapter V in THE STORY OF NOTRE DAME* at <http://archives.nd.edu/moore/moore05.htm>

### 1966

Dean Joseph O'Meara appoints Mrs. Kathleen Farmann as the fourth law librarian. Her husband, Stanley L. Farmann, is appointed assistant librarian.

## AT THE NOTRE DAME LAW SCHOOL

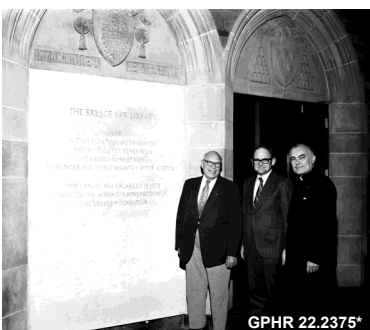


Before coming to Notre Dame, Mrs. Farman was the assistant director of Research Services at Ohio State University Law Library. She holds an LL.B. from the Catholic University of America, where she was first in her class. After law school she practiced law in Washington. She was awarded an M.L.L. in 1957 by the University of Washington.

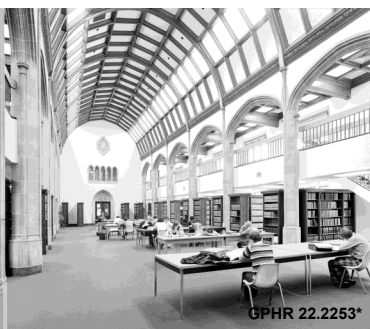


Mr. Stanley L. Farman was the senior bibliographer and instructor in Library Administration at Ohio State University. He holds a B.A. and an M.L.S., with distinction, from the University of Washington, where he met his wife Kathleen.

### 1971

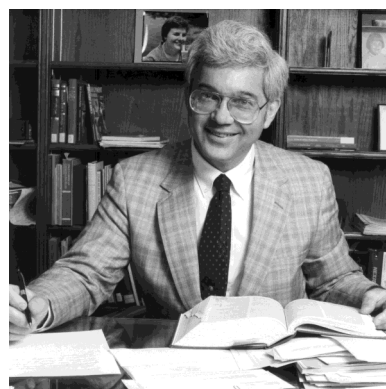


Stanley Sebastian Kresge, Dean Thomas L. Shaffer, and University President, Rev. Theodore M. Hesburgh, C.S.C. pose in front of the wall marking The Kresge Foundation's \$750,000 donation for the law building expansion. Prior to the expansion the law library holds 83,000 volumes. — Thomas L. Shaffer, *Report of the Dean, 1971-1972*, 48 NOTRE DAME LAW. 232, 242, 251 (1973).



"For the first time in 20 years we have enough room. We can seat every law student in the splendid new Kresge Law Library." — Thomas L. Shaffer, *Report of the Dean, 1972-1973*, 49 NOTRE DAME LAW. 214 (1974).

### 1985



Roger F. Jacobs, hired as the fifth law librarian by Dean David T. Link, served the Library of the United States Supreme Court as head librarian. (Photograph from the collection of The Supreme Court of the United States, Office of the Curator, #E-98-8A.)

### 1986



The law building expansion adds the East Reading Room, expands stack space, and creates the reference librarian offices.



\*Photographs provided by the  
University of Notre Dame Archives.

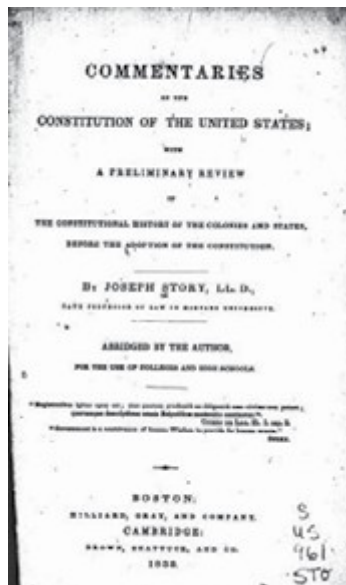
## UPDATED AND EXPANDED 2010

### 1990



Alumnus John Sandner provides funding for the acquisition of the entire 120,000-volume collection of the Chicago Bar Association Library. Thirty-thousand books are immediately added to the Kresge Library collection.

### 2004



The Kresge Law Library is one of a select group of academic law libraries holding at least 600,000 volumes. Story's *Commentaries on the Constitution of the United States* (1833) is the 600,000th volume.



Edmonds is responsible for the renovation of the law library over the next four years.

### 2000-2001



Roger Jacobs receives the University's Presidential Award from Father Malloy in recognition of his fifteen years of service to the law library in 2000. The following year, Roger is presented with the Grenville Clark Award honoring members of the University Community whose voluntary activities have advanced the causes of peace and human rights.

### 2006

Roger Jacobs retires. During his 25 years of leadership, library staff, seating, and shelf space more than doubled and the physical space increased by a third. Kresge Library contains more than 634,000 volumes.

The sixth law librarian, Ed Edmonds, Associate Dean for Library and Information Technology and Professor of Law, is appointed by Dean Patricia A. O'Hara. He is a 1973 Notre Dame graduate. Previously, he directed the Schoenecker Law Library and was a Professor of Law at the University of St. Thomas School of Law in Minneapolis. Ed

### 2010



October 8, 2010, Biolchini Hall of Law is dedicated. Robert F. Biolchini and his wife, Frances, endowed the University's Biolchini Family Chair in Law in 1995. Now they underwrite the renovation of the Notre Dame Law School and Kresge Law Library building, which is re-named Biolchini Hall of Law. Robert is a 1962 graduate of Notre Dame and holds a law degree from George Washington University.



*The layout is great. There is a lot of space and it is flexible space. I have used the soft-seating area just south of the Main Reading Room for my Bankruptcy class and it worked very well.*

*- Peter Alexander  
(Visiting faculty)*

*"I've absolutely loved the new library—the facilities are incredible and it's a great place to study. Additionally, the staff is very friendly and pleasant."*

*-James Emanuel (2L)*

*"I'm both surprised and amused by my own response to the 'new' library. Every day when I walk into work, I experience what can only be described as a strong feeling of pride. That's amusing in the sense that I personally contributed precious little (i.e., nothing!) to the physical transformation of this grand old building. Still, as a member of the Kresge Library faculty I participate in, if only by default, the building's impressive history. It is a privilege to work in such a beautiful environment where care has been taken to preserve and honor the past while embracing the responsibilities and challenges of higher education for the future."*

*- Laurel Cochrane,  
(Library faculty)*

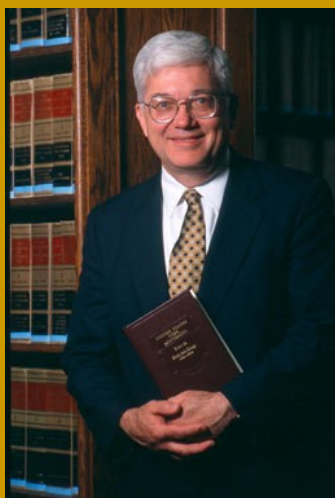
*"The behind-the-scenes part of the library, where a lot of library staff spend their time, has expanded and improved considerably. We have enough elbow room now to do our work more efficiently."*

*-Joe Thomas,  
(Library faculty)*



**ABOVE:** Technical Services librarians and staff in one part of their greatly expanded workspace.





**Roger Jacobs**  
 Director of Kresge Law Library,  
 1985-2006

## Biolchini Hall: The Notre Dame Law School Library, 4th ed.

In 1984, as Librarian of the Supreme Court of the United States and Library Director Designate of Notre Dame's Law School, I struggled over the plans of the third law school addition for which ground was to be broken shortly after my appointment. Where, I wondered, was the main entrance and how was the staff to provide service with seventeen separate paths into the library? Where were the offices for the anticipated growth of library faculty and work space for support staff that I was charged with developing? Where was the shelving for books and other materials that were incumbent to support scholarship in a law school striving to assume a position of national leadership? Where were the individual and collaborative learning spaces necessary to foster the intellectual development and professional skills of an increasingly talented student body? How and where were we going to respond to the impacts of new technology that portended immense rewards but with slight consideration of its spatial requirements? With time, supportive university and law school leadership, patient faculty and students, devoted and elastic staff, and most significantly, Robert and Fran Biolchini's peerless generosity, the fourth edition of the law school's library responds to those twenty-five year old concerns. Blending the fabric and texture of the 1930 building with the requirements of 21st century legal education, Biolchini Hall is a stunning, functional, and truly imaginative monument to the evolution of legal education at Notre Dame.

The second floor Eck Commons, so vigorously sponsored and defended by Deans Link and O'Hara, is the main thoroughfare from the Eck Hall faculty and classroom facility to Biolchini Hall. It serves to funnel patron traffic directly into the Kresge Library's main entrance. The Access Services Desk, like the reception desk in a grand hotel, attracts immediate attention from the entry and beckons visitors to approach. With offices adjacent to the main entry, research librarians are intellectual concierges to those who seek advice on locating or using law or law related information in the library or across the world.

Beyond this main service point, the library offers several venues to satisfy almost any particular student inclination: a grand spectacularly expanded and refurbished reading room, numerous large individual carrels, areas of soft informal seating, and numerous group study rooms accommodating two to six students. Additionally, several modest, private offices are available for notable visiting scholars who wish to spend time with Notre Dame's resources. Whether the spaces are larger or smaller, the aesthetic values of each is pronounced. Light, finish, and furnishings of the highest standard add character and academic richness long absent from the law library. Initial concerns that the horizontal expanse of the new building might impede students from locating all these wonderful new study spaces, appear unfounded. My observations during regular visits to the library indicate students are strongly attracted to both the quality and variety of new study spaces.

The primary occupants of the East and North sides of the building serve as the engine which drives a great library. Identifying, ordering, processing, and organizing a growing trove of research material, the technical services staff is housed in generous functional space for the first time in its history. Too often unappreciated collaborators in creating a research library, this group remains engaged in processing thousands of books and other print items each year. In its new quarters it will increase its implementation and management of automated systems that enhance the retrieval of information, not only in the Kresge Library, but wherever it may be located. The administrative office of the director is contiguous to technical services on the North side of the building. Coincidentally, this space is located

in the same area occupied by the law school's first librarian. Unlike the first librarian, however, who shared her space with the entire library staff, the director's office now serves as the command center for a major law school unit and provides an appropriate setting to support his many managerial, administrative and pedagogical responsibilities.

Twenty five years ago the library had little experience with or even exposure to law school use of technology. Through painful experience we learned how quickly technology would change many of our processes and how flexibility must be the core of technology space planning. Elsewhere in this issue Dan Manier, director of law school IT, expands upon its operation. Biolchini Hall goes far toward meeting current demands for technology staffing and public student computer use. Whether space designs are sufficiently flexible and expansive to meet unanticipated future developments must await the evaluation of our successors.

When planning the renovation of law school facilities began in earnest, the question was continually asked, "Why the need to expand space for collections, isn't everything going to be online?" Today, there is no doubt that digitally based information is supplanting the traditionally based print sources in many segments of legal research aimed at the practice of law. Academic scholarly efforts are also substantially enhanced by the power of growing digital files. One would have to have been stranded on an absolutely isolated island to be unaware of the information impact of Google and its contemporaries. That said, the law school concluded that the historical value of Kresge's extant print and microformatted collections and the anticipated continuing output of law and law related scholarship in exclusively print editions deserved an appropriate home within the walls of Biolchini Hall. Shelving for approximately 600,000 print volumes is twice as large as the capacity of the prior library, but still remains modest when compared with the nation's strongest legal research centers. While the future of scholarly print publishing is opaque, Biolchini Hall's renovations have been responsive to more efficient use of all its current and short term information storage demands and future expectations to adequately house its rich and growing collections in a dynamic growing digital environment.

In addition to overcoming the Kresge Library's long standing physical and functional inadequacies, Biolchini Hall provides a notable refinement that has long been prominent in great research centers, but unavailable to the law school: space to store and display rare books and special collections. Over time, the library had acquired, largely by gift and now with dedicated endowment funds, treasures of legal publishing. For years, rare books had been sent to Hesburgh Library for storage and safekeeping. An environmentally controlled secure stack space is now available and accepting the return of its most precious materials. In the Library's main entrance area, a special rare book display and study room has been established to provide space where scholars may examine and use these unique historical materials as well as offer occasional exhibitions.

As one who long struggled with the limitations of the former library and attempted to articulate the spatial requirements of a library in a leadership law school, I may be excused if I delight in Biolchini Hall. No longer can colleagues on ABA sabbatical visitation teams criticize the limitations of space for students, staff, or collections. No longer will the major patron entry point on the South side of the library have to be served by staff located on the North side. No longer are stacks and circulation patterns a virtual labyrinth. No longer are staff and library faculty compressed into inadequate work spaces. No longer present are the high school sized study carrels. Overcoming these limitations alone is cause for satisfaction, but when accompanied by the artistry of SLAM Collaborative's architectural design, the new library raises the spirits, instills an appreciation for richness of its resources, and offers testimony of those dedicated to the law. May the fourth edition of the law library in Biolchini Hall long serve to foster legal learning and scholarship at Notre Dame.

-Roger Jacobs

"... the new library raises the spirits, instills an appreciation for richness of its resources, and offers testimony of those dedicated to the law."



# *The Main Reading Room*

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**AT RIGHT:** The Main Reading Room, photographed before construction began. Books were moved out of the reading room as early as 2007 so that temporary office spaces could be constructed to house displaced faculty members as Eck Hall of Law construction began. Below, a student takes advantage of one of these rooms as a quiet study space before faculty moved into them.



**AT LEFT:** Photos taken during renovation, showing the old lighting fixtures, reference librarian offices, (subsequently removed) and the chandeliers (replicas of those original to the building) being installed.



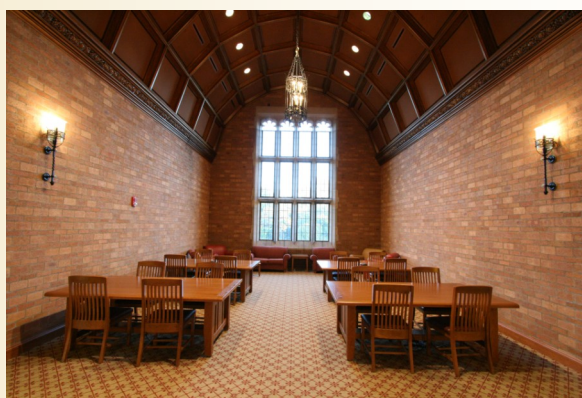
**The Main Reading Room** renovation was completed in the summer of 2010 and served as a beautiful venue for the October 2010 dedication dinner (photos below and on page 17).



**ABOVE:** The Main Reading Room furnished and ready for the beginning of the 2010-2011 school year.

## *Did you know...?*

- \* The old library was 37,000 sq. feet. With the renovation, the library expanded to 58,255 sq. feet.
- \* The library now has about 12 miles (65,297 linear feet) of shelving space compared with the 55,000 linear feet (about 10 miles) in the old building!
- \* Library seating increased from 476 to 585.
- \* The library's printed materials collection alone has averaged a growth rate of about 3% each year; in 2002 the collection (print only) included 299,082 volumes, a figure which had grown to 360,734 by 2010. The total number of volumes plus "volume equivalents" (i.e., microform, electronic resources, etc.) grew from 578,888 to 683,038 in 2010. This is up from just 170,813 in 1986, after the previous law school expansion.



**ABOVE:** An extension of the Main Reading Room in a space that was formerly a stairwell and the main entrance to the old library.

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# Study spaces

**BEFORE**



*"The new library is great! It's beautiful and has plenty of study space."*

*-2L student*



*"It was a shock going from tiny little spaces to this big building. The new building is a real blessing. The lighting takes your breath away. It is so much brighter than in the old library..."*

*- Anita Lutz,  
Library staff*

**AFTER**



# A Student's Perspective

An interview with Starr Rayford, J.D. Candidate, Notre Dame Law School Class of 2011, and part-time Circulation Assistant at the Kresge Library.

## What do you like most about the new library?

The best thing about the new library is the abundance of natural light. As soon as you walk through the doors of Biolchini Hall, you're surrounded by windows. Along the hallways, in the study rooms, around the main reading room, you're flooded with natural light. Students view studying as a necessary evil, but being able to study in such a beautiful library makes it enjoyable.

## What was it like working through the construction period? What challenges did this entail?

As a student, the construction period was frustrating. Study space was so limited that most of the students were forced to start studying in various buildings around campus. Studying at Hesburgh Library would have been an optimal solution, but the vast differences in the study habits of law students and undergraduates made this location unworkable. Eventually, we settled into a groove studying at Mendoza, the Coleman Morris Center or traveling to Panera. However, lugging law books around campus or trying to outline a semester's worth of employment law while at a restaurant is exhausting. It is such a relief to finally have a place to study that is within walking distance to our lockers, our professors' offices and the library's reserve collection.

As a student employee, the transition was not as intense as it was for other students or other employees. Because I'm not a full-time employee, I did not have to worry about my routine or my regular work space being disturbed. As a student, working at the library helped me to learn the layout of the new building and become familiar with the collection as the changes were taking place. For the first few months after the construction ended, I was one of the few students who could locate books and conduct research with ease because I knew my way around the new building.

## Do you miss anything about the old building?

The old building had character. I love that the new building is sleek and modern; it certainly is a building that you can be proud to show off to family and friends. However, the old building served as a reminder that each time you walked through the doors, you were studying in a building that had history. You could sit in any of the classrooms and feel the presence of the many illustrious alumni that came before you. The new building is beautiful, but it's going to take some decades before it feels full of anecdotes.

## What new feature of the renovation do you like most?

Space, space, space! The old building was just so cramped in so many ways. It was impossible to fit both your laptop and your textbook on the desk during class, which forced students to leave their books at home. The new desks not only have enough room for your laptop and your book, but they also feature outlets! For students who grew up on computers and use laptops at least ten hours a day, power sources are a godsend. Also, the new building features a library large enough to accommodate everyone's studying needs: a silent main reading room, a more social and collaborative study area next to the reference desk, and more than twenty study rooms for individual and group study use.

## What are some of the comments about the library that you have heard from students, faculty, etc.?

At times, it feels as if the only things we hear from students are complaints: the study rooms should not be locked, the books are not available when students need them, etc. However, in my experience most of the students are extremely pleased with the service, the facilities, and the extent of our collection. They understand that there are some times that adjustments will need to be worked out and compromises made to ensure that everyone's needs are met. More importantly, the faculty and students recognize the effort the library staff puts in to make everything run smoothly.



# Biolchini Hall of Law Technology

The opening of Biolchini Hall of Law in August of 2010 represented a significant upgrade for the Law School. The most visible changes are in the library where students now enjoy beautifully appointed reading rooms, study spaces, and easy access to the library collection. Perhaps less evident are the significant upgrades in technology.

## VIDEO CONFERENCE CLASSROOMS

Starting on the first floor, adjacent to the St. Thomas More chapel, are two state of the art video conference classrooms. Each room seats 50 students and is equipped with the same classroom technology installed in the classrooms in Eck Hall. But in addition, microphones have been placed between every two seats and cameras are positioned at the front and rear of the rooms. When a video conference is in progress and a student wishes to speak to the remote location, they simply press their microphone. This not only activates their microphone, but sends a signal to the video camera that points it in their direction so that they can easily be seen at the remote location. A similar system was recently installed in the London law school location which will facilitate meetings and seminar courses between the two locations.



## Computer lab usage

*(Since the move into Biolchini Hall)*

THE IT DEPARTMENT REPORTS THAT BETWEEN AUGUST 2010 AND APRIL 2011, THERE HAVE BEEN MORE THAN 28,000 LOGINS ON THE 33 COMPUTER WORKSTATIONS LOCATED IN THE MAIN AND INSTRUCTIONAL COMPUTER LABS. ON AVERAGE, USERS STAY LOGGED IN FOR JUST OVER 2 HOURS.

BELOW: Librarian Dwight King lecturing in the new instruction lab.



## NEW COMPUTER LAB

The new computer lab (pictured at left) is located on the third floor in an open area with plenty of natural light. The furniture in this area was chosen to maximize workspace for the students and make the space feel open and uncongested. This is quite the opposite of our old computer lab which had rows of computers and very little space for spreading out research and writing materials. There are 12 computers in this lab area, nine Lenovos running Windows 7 and 3 Apple iMacs. Plenty of space has also been set aside for students to bring their laptops to work on projects.

## MEDIASCAPES

Off to the East side of the computer lab near the windows, two Mediascapes are available for small group use. The systems are designed for small group instruction and collaborative projects. Up to six people can plug their laptops into a control system that displays their screen on a 42-inch monitor at the touch of a button. In addition to reserving the 20 seat instruction lab, Lexis and Westlaw representatives and research librarians can use these systems for small group or one-on-one training.

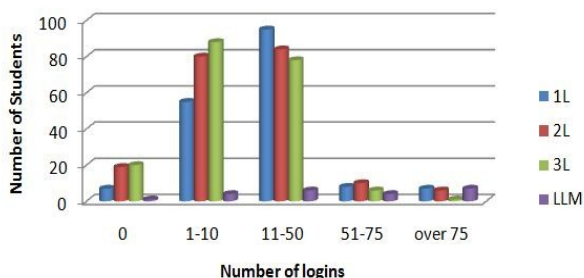
## INSTRUCTION LAB

The instruction lab has 20 workstations and is ideally suited for legal reference training. It has a large projection screen for displaying details that can be easily seen throughout the room, as well as a whiteboard that spans the front of the room to facilitate detailed instruction. When not in use for scheduled instructional sessions, this area is open for use by law students.

-Dan Manier

## Computer Lab Users in Each Class

August 2010 - March 2011







## ***Biolchini Hall of Law Dedication***

***October 8, 2010***

**After a mass of celebration** at the Basilica (above), Fr. John Jenkins blessed the Biolchini Hall (bottom right). A reception and dinner was held for all the benefactors after the ceremonies. Among the honored guests and speakers was Fr. Theodore Hesburgh (at right with Patrick F. McCartan), Robert and Fran Biolchini (above in the Basilica and below left, speaking at the reception later that evening), and Associate Justice Samuel Anthony Alito, Jr. (pictured on page 13).







The Notre Dame Law School's Kresge Library publishes its *Law Library News* every other month. To see additional issues, including many more photos taken throughout the renovation process, see the [online newsletter archives](#).



*For more about the Biolchini Hall of Law Dedication, see the [story here](#) or the online copy of the [Dedication brochure](#).*